

REMARKS

Claim 14 has been amended to correct the claim dependency. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action mailed February 1, 2007, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-14 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 13 stand rejected. Claims 4-6, 8, 11-12, and 14 have been objected to, but would be allowable upon submission of a terminal disclaimer for claims 1-3 and 13. The indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed herein on June 26, 2006, and that no copy of the PTO/SB/08 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO/SB/08 be made of record herein. It is respectfully requested that an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 evidencing consideration of the cited references be returned to the undersigned attorney.

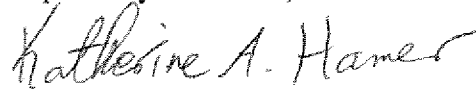
Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,679,965

Claims 1-3 and 13 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,679,965. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence in the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-6, 8, and 11-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine A. Hamer".

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